

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05129 160416Z

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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SCALI'S CONDOLENCES IN UN ON SAQQAF'S DEATH

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF AMB SCALI'S GA STATEMENT OF SYMPATHY TO SAUDI ARABIAN DELEGATION AND GOVERNMENT DELIVERED IN GA ON BEHALF OF HOST GOVERNMENT AND EXCERPT FROM AMB BAROODY'S RESPONSE.

A. AMB SCALI'S EULOGY:

MR. PRESIDENT, COLLEAGUES,

YESTERDAY EVENING THE SAUDI DELEGATION, THIS ASSEMBLY, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SAUDI ARABIA -- INDEED, THE WHOLE WORLD COMMUNITY -- SUFFERED A GREVOUS LOSS.

FOREIGN MINISTER OMAR SAQQAF WAS STRICKEN AND DIED IN HIS QUARTERS IN NEW YORK. AT THIS HOUR, ABOARD A SPECIAL UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT MADE AVAILABLE BY PRESIDENT FORD, OMAR SAQQAF'S BODY IS BEING BORNE BACK TO HIS HOMELAND. ACCOMPANYING ARE A NUMBER OF HIS COUNTRYMEN AND A SENIOR UNITED STATES OFFICIAL.

OMAR SAQQAF WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT STATESMAN. HE WAS A GREAT HUMAN BEING. MY PRESIDENT AND MY SECRETARY OF STATE HELD HIM IN HIGH OFFICIAL ESTEEM AND DEEP AFFECTION.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 05129 160416Z

I PERSONALLY SHARED THAT ESTEEM AND THAT AFFECTION.

MORE THAN SKILL, MORE THAN INTELLIGENCE AND UNDERSTANDING
MADE OMAR SAQQAF A GREAT FOREIGN MINISTER. HE WAS,
ABOVE ALL, SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE HE HAD CHARACTER. ALL
WHO DEALT WITH HIM KNEW THAT HE WAS A MAN OF TRUTH,
A MAN OF ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO HIS OWN SOVEREIGN, HIS OWN
PEOPLE, AND TO ALL MANKIND.

OMAR SAQQAF'S LAST JOURNEY WAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.
IT WAS A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF PEACE. AS WE DEDICATE OUR-
SELVES TO CONTINUING THAT SEARCH, WE MAY TAKE COMFORT
FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OMAR SAQQAF HAS FOUND,
AT THE END OF A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, PEACE FOR HIMSELF.

B. AMB BAROODY'S THANKS: QUOTE AND HOW CAN I FORGET,
MY DEAR COLLEAGUE AND BROTHER, JOHN SCALI -- WE FORGET
TITLES ON SUCH AN OCCASION. HE WAS A REAL BROTHER.
HE INSTANTLY COMMUNICATED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, AND ARRANGED
TO HAVE SENT TO US AND PLACED AT OUR DISPOSAL A SPECIAL
PLANE TO TAKE THE BODY OF OMAR SAKKAF BACK TO SAUDI ARABIA,
ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOUR AMBASSADORS AND THREE ASSISTANTS,
INCLUDING OUR CONSUL-GENERAL. THEY LEFT AT 6 O'CLOCK
THIS MORNING. END QUOTE.
BENNETT

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